



# ROSE NEWSLETTER

CHARITIES NEW ZEALAND

September 2014

Dear Friends,

Rose Charities NZ is in good heart, thanks to so many of you being so generous with your support over the last 12 months. Once again, it is a pleasure to bring you a snapshot of our activities.

## FUNDRAISER REACHED \$25,000 TO LIGHT UP DISTANT LIVES



Thanks to nearly 200 generous supporters at our Rose night in the Morra Hall, Waiheke Island, on May 24, we raised \$25,000. Far beyond our best budget dreams. We can think of it as 1000 eye operations!

Ticket sales were boosted by many additional donations, a small silent auction, a cash bar and lots of volunteers who provided the delicious food.

**Thank you, thank you to ALL who came across by sea and land, to dance, to donate and to make merry. See page two.**

### CAMBODIA: A NEW ERA BEGINS

When Rose Charities NZ made a commitment to support a struggling eye clinic in Phnom Penh in 2002 no one imagined just how it would evolve. Today the medical director, Dr Hang Vra, has the reputation of running the best eye clinic in Cambodia. Rose Charities NZ has helped every step of the long path.

Trustee Mike Webber (below), a retired optometrist from Whanganui, has just returned from his 12th visit, accompanied by Napier ophthalmologist Dr Ewan Fraser. — See page three.



### NEW ZEALAND: MUSIC CHANGING LIVES

Rose Charities NZ has donated a cello and a violin to Sistema run by Dr Joe Harrop in South Auckland, in association with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. -- See page four.



TOP ROW from left: Annie Porter kept her cooking gloves on nearly all night in the kitchen at Morra Hall, She was joined by a great team, including Liese Groot-Alberts, (left) the grief and trauma counselor who Rose Charities NZ has helped send to many places. MC Alan Smythe. Rose Trustees Dr William Grut (from Vancouver) and Pip Neville-Barton. Barbara Lusk, Trish Gribben (Rose NZ chairperson) and Jane Williams.ABOVE: King Tide, the Superband, the dancing and the wine sponsor.

## THANK YOU

There are many people to thank for the success of the fundraiser event.

- The core volunteer group of Waihekeans: Pip Neville Barton (a Rose NZ Trustee), Pamela Lim, Annie Porter and Pip Duncalfe. Nicola Thomas and Trish Gribben joined in.
- MC Alan Smythe.
- KING TIDE – the Supergroup of musicians Pat Urlich (Peking Man), Mano Pratt (Maori show bands), Peter Cuddihy (Space Waltz) and Manuel Kahura (drums).
- Singer Darien Takle.
- Actor Michael Hurst.
- Fiddler Joe Harrop.
- The artists who gave their work for the silent auction: Glass maker Ann Robinson, painter Karl Maughan, painter/sculptor Michael Smither.
- Nellie Tier, The Garden Party, Pip Duncalf and Tur Borren for Stoneyridge reserve wines, cushion maker Rachel Mooney, patchwork quilt maker Angela Aitken.
- Eurovintage for French and New Zealand wines.
- Barmen: Bill Barton, Dave Ritchie, Hauke Groot, Simon Hassan, John Gribben.
- Gulf News and Vicki Jayne.
- Hannah Walker for the invitation design.
- Maryanne Dransfield and Optic News.

Of course there were many others behind the scenes and we thank you ALL.

Volunteers are what make Rose Charities NZ different. We have NO administration costs, NO travel costs, NO frills.

Every dollar raised goes to help others, to making a difference in the world.

## NEPAL

On August 29, 2014, the Shree Badri Eye Centre near Lumbini, Nepal, directed by Dr Basant Sharma, received its official blessing and opening ceremony. It has taken years of patience dealing with the Nepali bureaucracy for Dr Basant to reach this auspicious day.

Thanks to many generous donors, Rose Charities NZ has provided the clinic with a generator and electricity back-up system, absolutely crucial for eye surgery in a country where power runs extremely erratically and is off for hours, if not days, on end.

We have also provided funds for four hospital beds, a wheelchair, stretcher, two wooden beds, two trolleys, four benches, a computer and printer and other small items.

When Dr Basant has his clinic running smoothly for paying patients he intends to do free work for the very poor, including health education and outreach clinics.

Ever since he visited New Zealand in 2008, and stayed with Rose Chairperson Trish Gribben in Auckland, Dr Basant has kept in close touch with Rose Trustees.

BELOW: Dr Basant Sharma and his family at the opening of his new Shree Badri Eye Clinic, near Lumbini, Nepal. The clinic has a catchment area of 20 million people, many of them extremely poor.





*Patients are screened every morning and then wait patiently for their eye operations.*



*Mike Webber (left) and Dr Hang Vra*



*Dr Nathalie*

### Report from Cambodia

## ADVANCED SURGERY IN ROSE SIGHT CENTRE

Rose Charities NZ Trustee Mike Webber, making his 12<sup>th</sup> visit to Cambodia in late July, was accompanied by Ophthalmologist Dr Ewan Fraser from Napier, Hawkes Bay. It was Dr Fraser's second visit and no time was wasted before he was teaching Dr Hang Vra, the medical director of the Rose Sight Centre, advanced surgical techniques. The two surgeons worked long days performing surgeries lasting up to two hours on patients selected from the hundreds screened.

The new clinic is 15 kms out of Phnom Penh on the main road to Siem Reap. It has advanced equipment, much of it supplied or donated from New Zealand.

"With the human dynamo who is Mike Webber, we covered amazing ground in a short time," said Dr Fraser. "I operated with Dr Vra and his team for two days and we worked through cases like retinal detachment, severe diabetes and intra-ocular infection. We also removed a metal fragment from the back of the eye of a young man with only one eye after an injury.

"I am happy to say the very complex equipment worked well and I was able to help Dr Vra make good progress."

For Mike Webber it was an intense and emotional week. "It was great timing to be there for the opening ceremony by the monks of the new Rose Sight Centre. It is such a huge advance when I think back to the very rudimentary conditions in the first clinic created a decade ago by Dr Vra; there was no air conditioning and poor and not very sterile condition of the operating theatre.

"Rose NZ Trustee John Veale first discovered Vra trying to help very poor people with their sight problems a decade ago. His clinic had been vandalised, but he never gave up. That inspired us to support him so that now he is running what is considered the best sight centre in Cambodia. It is one of only 12 eye clinics for 15 million people.

"Thanks to Rose Charities NZ and all our generous donors Vra is a highly-trained ophthalmologist. His wife Nathalie (who is Ukrainian) and two other Cambodian doctors will qualify as ophthalmologists next year.

"It is nothing short of miraculous."

*BELOW: Dr Ewan Fraser, ophthalmologist from Napier, The truck donated by Rose Charities NZ, with funds raised by the PIF Foundation and people from Whanganui, to bring rural people to the Rose eye clinic. Buddhist monks at the opening ceremony.*



# PROJECTS IN NEW ZEALAND

Rose Charities supports a variety of projects throughout New Zealand. The emphasis is on young disadvantaged people and we hope to expand efforts both here and in the Pacific.

Two new projects are Foundation for Youth Development in the North Island and the 180 Degrees Trust in the South Island. Both organisations offer a wide range of programmes for young people at risk.

See: [www.fyd.org.nz](http://www.fyd.org.nz) and [www.180degrees.org.nz](http://www.180degrees.org.nz)

Other projects include:

- Holly House - support for teenage mothers.
- Champion Centre – for children with developmental problems.
- School breakfasts in South Auckland delivered to six schools through Angelsight Trust.
- Auckland Refugee Family Trust for family reunification
- Poonga, an education support group for Tamil children.

LEFT: Learning a musical instrument is changing lives for hundreds of students in South Auckland. Read more about Sistema on the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra website: [apo.co.nz/sistema-aotearoa](http://apo.co.nz/sistema-aotearoa)



Dr Joe Harrop (pictured conducting) who directs the programme was a big hit at the Waiheke fund raiser when he played Irish jigs on his fiddle.

## FRIENDS OF ROSE

**We need you!**  
**Our donors make our work possible.**

**Annual renewal: \$50 by Direct Credit:**

**Bank Account Number: 02 0800 0623302 002**

Please put your name and use reference code: **RC donate**

Please email our Treasurer Jane Midgley  
[JPMidgley@midgleys.co.nz](mailto:JPMidgley@midgleys.co.nz)  
to notify her of your donation and give your address for a receipt.

(Donations specified for Cambodia or Nepal do NOT qualify for tax deductions under NZ Law We intend to increase our projects in New Zealand and the Pacific in the future. This work qualifies for a tax deduction.)

**Charities Commission Number: CC11384**

### Hand cream for an eye operation



**ORDER A NELLIE TIER ROSE HAND CREAM**

CONTACT: [trishgribben@xtra.co.nz](mailto:trishgribben@xtra.co.nz)

Cost: \$38 a jar. Postage: \$5 for up to six jars.

\$20 of each jar goes to Rose Charities NZ.

### Generous supporters

Our Rose Eye Clinic in Phnom Penh has been generously supported, year after year, by many people. In particular we thank:

- The PIF Foundation
- Colin and Diane Crombie
- John Kelsey
- Anne and Paddy Maloney
- Agility Logistics
- John Teoh
- Paul and Lynette Rose
- Dan O'Leary